

## **October 30<sup>th</sup> Town Meeting**

7:30 p.m.

Proposed morning rush hour left turn restriction on  
Connecticut Avenue east onto Washington Street

## **Community Service Day**

This annual event takes place Saturday, October 28<sup>th</sup> when Town residents, business persons, and friends will gather to clean and remove undergrowth from Silver Creek south of the CSX tracks. Everyone should meet at the Train Station parking lot at 10:00 a.m.

## **Mark Your Calendars**

**November 23, 24:** Town Office closed for  
Thanksgiving. No trash pickup on Friday

**December 11, 7:00 p.m.:** combined Worksession  
and Town Meeting

**December 25, 26:** Town Office Closed for Holiday  
No Trash Pick up. Pickup on Wednesday

**January 1, 2:** Town Office Closed  
for Holiday. No Trash Pickup. Pick up on Wednesday

**January 8, 7:00 p.m.:** Worksession

## Kensington Suffers Loss in Clum Kennedy Gardens

Recently, the “Grand Dame” of the Gardens, the Silver Maple fell. The tree was probably one of the oldest, if not the oldest, tree in the Town. Its condition had deteriorated over recent years despite pruning. A slice of the tree was saved for posterity and a plaque will be installed where the maple stood.

## Needed: “Tree Huggers”

There are openings on the Town Tree Commission so anyone interested in volunteering to serve should leave your name at the Town Office to be forwarded to Council Member Tucker.

## Rats Don’t Make Good Neighbors!!

There have been a number of rat sightings around the Town in recent weeks. Rats are attracted to bird food, unsecured trash containers, and pet food left outside (including bones for dogs). Rats nest in wood and mulch piles, retaining walls, and where debris and underbrush are allowed to accumulate. Please take time to check your property to see if you are encouraging our rodent population.

## Mayor’s Report

### **Howard Avenue Phase II**

Montgomery County has awarded a contract for Phase II. The project will start when the Allfirst Bank and Prevention of Blindness come to an agreement on the shared driveway. They have met and an agreement should be signed in the near future. The County and its contractor will work closely with the Town to ensure as little disruption as possible for merchants and citizens during construction.

The Mayor met with Montgomery County and the contractor of Phase I to discuss the condition of the trees on Howard Avenue. Tree experts felt that if the trees make it through the winter they will survive. The contractor has given an extension of the guarantee to spring of 2001.

### **Metropolitan Avenue**

No update

## **Meetings and Events Attended by the Mayor**

The Mayor attended two Legislative Meetings in Annapolis this month.

She attended a Civic Leader Tour. The 459<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing flew a small group of civic leaders on a C-141C aircraft to Colorado Springs, Colorado. The tour included a visit to the Space Weapons Command Center and a great tour of the U.S. Air Force Academy. The Mayor returned from this trip with even more pride in our country and those serving in the armed forces. The young men and women in the Air Force Academy are completely dedicated to character development as a requirement for leadership in their future in the Air force.

Mayor Raufaste attended a White House briefing in Rockville hosted by County Executive Doug Duncan. Mickey Ibarra, Assistant to the President and Director of Intergovernmental Affairs, held the roundtable discussion with State, County and Municipal officials. Mr. Ibarra explained the assignments and responsibilities of his department and many topics of interest were discussed.

The Mayor, on behalf of the Montgomery County Chapter of the Maryland Municipal League, presented the MML book of Municipalities to the School Board.

The Mayor attended a retreat and MML Board meeting in Ocean City.

She met twice with a representative of the Kensington Shopping Center to discuss plans to improve the site.

The Mayor chaired a Maryland Municipal League Chapter meeting in the Town of Brookeville this month. Council Member Pfautz and Clerk Treasurer McAuley also attended this meeting. Chapter meetings are held monthly from September – May. Each month's meeting is held in a different municipality.

“Thank you” to Shirley and Jack Gillespie for their dedication to the Town Labor Day Parade. They and Louise Hamilton have done an excellent job once again. We are looking for a new volunteer to chair this event next year. This is the largest event held by the Town each year. Let us know if you have the time and would like to become involved. We need you!

A big “thank you” to Jenny Smith for chairing the 8K Race. It was a big success and we believe the race will bring in a very nice donation to be given to Kensington Parkwood Elementary School.

To all the volunteers who came out to help in both these events, we thank each of you.

## Council Member Pfautz's Report

### Traffic & Safety

#### **Traffic Advisory Committee Preliminary Report and Recommendations**

Members:     Bret Gates, Baltimore Street  
                 Steve Cohen, Connecticut Avenue  
                 Tracey Furman, Detrick Avenue  
                 Laura Gabanski, Dupont Avenue  
                 Gunther Stern, Farragut Avenue  
                 Dustin Finney, Lexington Street  
                 Jenny Smith, St. Paul Street  
                 Sabina Emerson, Wake Drive  
                 Julia Binder, Warner Street (east)  
                 Bob Libman, Washington Street  
                 Charley Haughney, Oberon & Wheatley Streets  
                 Walter Koehler, Mannakee Street  
                 Brian Imirie, Plyers Mill Road  
                 Mary O'Donnell, Fawcett Street  
                 Leanne Pfautz, Kensington Parkway

The Traffic Advisory Committee met on August 3, 2000 to discuss problem traffic areas and issues in and around Town. The following were identified as the major problems in need of attention:

1.     Enforcement – there was very strong consensus that we need more enforcement of traffic speed and adherence to traffic signs
2.     Traffic Calming – there was strong consensus that there needs to be more focus on methods of traffic calming throughout Town
3.     Truck traffic – there was consensus that trucks are violating the no-truck “streets” and creating safety problems on our streets
4.     Connecticut Avenue – the volume and speed of traffic on Connecticut Avenue was identified by all as a major detraction to our quality of life in Town
5.     Cut-through traffic – a problem identified by most of the committee as an issue
6.     Pedestrian safety - All felt that this should be of paramount concern – more and wider sidewalks are needed

7. Metrobuses and Ride-On buses should be contacted about excessive speed on routes through Town

The Committee then met on August 31, 2000 to brainstorm on methods and techniques to address the problems and issues raised in the first meeting.

1. Enforcement – there is a critical need in Town for better enforcement of speed limits and compliance with signs. Suggestions for improvement in order of Committee’s priority and “do-ability” included the following:
  - a. Investigate the possibility of Town buying a SMART to place at various points around Town
  - b. Investigate the possibility of Town buying a traffic camera to place at various points around Town
  - c. Petition County police to have more visibility in Town
  - d. Investigate the possibility of hiring a Town Officer
2. Traffic Calming –
  - a. Investigate traffic calming measures such as circles, landscaping in the median; methods that are effective but still add charm to the neighborhood
  - b. Create public education campaign to stress importance of driving safety (obeying speed restrictions and street signs) to include signs and bumper stickers with different messages, same messages on County cable and Town website
  - c. Continue to work with state officials on light at Plyers Mill Road
3. Truck Traffic –
  - a. Identify truck approved truck routes through Town
  - b. Communicate these truck routes with business owners in Town and others
  - c. Create letter that can be sent to trucks seen on “non-truck” approved streets informing them of violation of our truck routes
4. Connecticut Avenue –
  - a. See #1 above
  - b. Investigate possibility of reducing speed limit through Kensington to 30 mph – narrow lanes?
  - c. Investigate possibility of installing sidewalks on both sides of Connecticut within Town limits (see # 6 below)

- d. Reroute eastbound Knowles traffic to Summit
  - e. Investigate possibility of creating tunnel or overpass through Kensington for through traffic
- 5. Cut through traffic –
  - a. Investigate possibility of working with state consultant to review and analyze Town street configurations and signage and make recommendations for improvements to cut down on cut through traffic and implementation of traffic calming methods (see #2 above)
  - b. When appropriate, address traffic created by up-county development with County and State officials (i.e., Olney)
- 6. Pedestrians –
  - a. Make sidewalks safer for pedestrians
  - b. Widen sidewalks where possible to give pedestrians best possible safety
  - c. Improve pedestrian crossing at Knowles and Connecticut
- 7. Metro Buses and Ride-On Buses –
  - a. Send letters to Metro and Ride-On asking for better adherence to speed limits and signs throughout Town
- 8. Make Traffic Committee a Standing Committee – stress importance of traffic safety to the Town and our quality of life

## **Building Permits Issues**

A permit was issued for a retaining wall at the Mobile Station on Connecticut Avenue.

## **Staff Report**

Clerk Treasurer McAuley attended a Maryland Municipal Clerks' Association meeting in Rising Sun. The group listened to presentations on Redistricting in Maryland and the Public Information Act.

She attended a Wellness in the Workplace workshop presented by Local Government Insurance Trust.

She attended the quarterly meeting of the lower County municipal staff persons held in Garrett Park. The government relations representative from WSSC spoke and ensured the group that he would work for better communications with the municipalities.

Director of Public Works Joel attended a Highway Snow Removal Workshop in Roanoke.

## Special Meeting

August 15, 2000

Mayor Raufaste and Council Members Tucker and Pfautz met on August 15, 2000 regarding the proposed rear porch at 10405 Fawcett Street. Based on Council discussion August 7, 2000 and after review of the Local Advisory Panel and Kensington Historical Society positions, Mayor Raufaste and Council Members Tucker and Pfautz agreed on three possible courses of action:

1. support for the HPC staff recommendation for approval
2. support for the LAP position (no position)
3. support for the KHS position

Council Member Pfautz made a motion to support the KHS position. Council Member Tucker seconded. The Mayor concurred. The meeting was not taped.

## Worksession

September 11, 2000 7:00 p.m.

Mayor Raufaste, Council Members Bruch, O'Donnell, Pfautz and Tucker, Clerk Treasurer McAuley and Director of Public Works Joel were present and the following issues were addressed:

- Council Member O'Donnell moved to appropriate \$900 toward "Antique Row" trailblazing signs on the Beltway and its exit ramps to Kensington. Seconded and passed unanimously with the Mayor concurring.
- The Code Enforcement Officer will develop an informational flyer explaining the new Town Sign Ordinance. The flyer will be distributed to all affected businesses.
- The Clerk Treasurer will explore other municipalities' methods of permitting telecommunication equipment installations.
- The December Meeting schedule was adjusted to combine the Worksession and Town Meeting which will be held on December 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. The Mayor asked the Council to consider modifying the July and August meeting schedules at a later date.
- The Minutes were reviewed for additions and corrections.
- The correspondence was reviewed.

The Council agreed to remove parking restrictions from a portion of the north side of Farragut Avenue west of Connecticut Avenue.

## **Town Meeting**

September 25, 2000

The meeting was Called to Order by Mayor Raufaste at 7:30 p.m. with Council Members O'Donnell, Pfautz, and Tucker Present. Council Member Bruch, Clerk Treasurer McAuley, and Director of Public Works Joel were necessarily absent.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The Mayor and Council Members presented reports.

### **Council Actions**

Council Member Tucker moved to include minutes of the Special Meeting held on August 14<sup>th</sup> in the October Journal. There were no amendments to the Town Meeting and Worksession minutes as printed. Seconded and passed unanimously.

The Mayor and Council concurred that the Traffic Committee should be a standing committee.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat McAuley, Clerk Treasurer

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